

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended): A steering wheel, comprising:

a wheel section at least including a core of a predetermined shape; and

a controller mounted on the wheel section for controlling a predetermined device,

wherein

wherein the controller includes:

a supporting section having a space whose shape is formed corresponding to the core and having a cylindrical outer surface with a predetermined central axis;

a rotating section operable having a cylindrical inner surface that is substantially a same as that of the cylindrical outer surface of the supporting section in diameter and that is slidably mounted on the cylindrical outer surface of the supporting section, to rotate about a the predetermined central rotational axis; and

at least one switch for outputting a signal in response to a rotation of the rotating section; and

wherein the supporting section accommodates the core in the space for being fixed to the core.

2. (Original): The steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein the controller is mounted between at least a right or left end of the wheel section and an upper end thereof.

3. (Original): The steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein the rotating section is operable to rotate about the predetermined rotational axis within a range from a first angle to a second angle.

4. (Original): The steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein the rotating section is operable to rotate about the predetermined rotational axis from a predetermined reference position in two directions.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (New): The steering wheel according to claim 4, further comprising a neutral position locking mechanism including at least two elastic members for locking the rotating section in the reference position by exerting a force in a direction opposite to a rotation of the rotating section.

7. (New): The steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein a value of a rotational torque of the rotating section is selected so that the rotating section does not rotate while steering of the wheel section is performed and so that a driver is allowed to operate the rotating section smoothly.

8. (New): The steering wheel according to claim 7, wherein a rotational torque of the rotating section is determined on a vehicle-by-vehicle basis.